OHA AWARDS $100,000 GRANT TO UH LAW SCHOOL’S HAWAI‘I INNOCENCE PROJECT TO ASSIST NATIVE HAWAIANS

HONOLULU – The William S. Richardson School of Law is proud to announce that its Hawai‘i Innocence Project recently received a $100,000 grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This project will assist OHA in its strategic goal of advocacy for native Hawaiians. The Innocence Project seeks justice for those wrongfully convicted, and this is its first grant from OHA.

The Hawai‘i Innocence Project began in 2005 in association with the California Western School of Law in San Diego. Professor Virginia E. Hench manages this program at the Law School. Law students, post-graduate fellow Edward Hu, and professors from the William S. Richardson School of Law co-operate with both public and private criminal defense lawyers to investigate and litigate Hawai‘i criminal cases after conviction when there is compelling evidence of actual innocence.

Under the direction of nine trustees elected statewide, OHA’s purpose is to provide the opportunity for a better life and future for all Hawaiians. Professor Hench stated “HIP is grateful for this opportunity to assist OHA in its mission.” She noted that more than half of HIP’s caseload involves Native Hawaiians with claims of actual innocence of the crimes for which they have been convicted. “This grant will help us continue and build upon our efforts to achieve justice,” Hench added.

For more information, contact Professor Hench at 956-6547.